Elsbeth Willis Burns.
Mercedes 1843

Vol. 1

Official File

Birmingham Baptist Association.

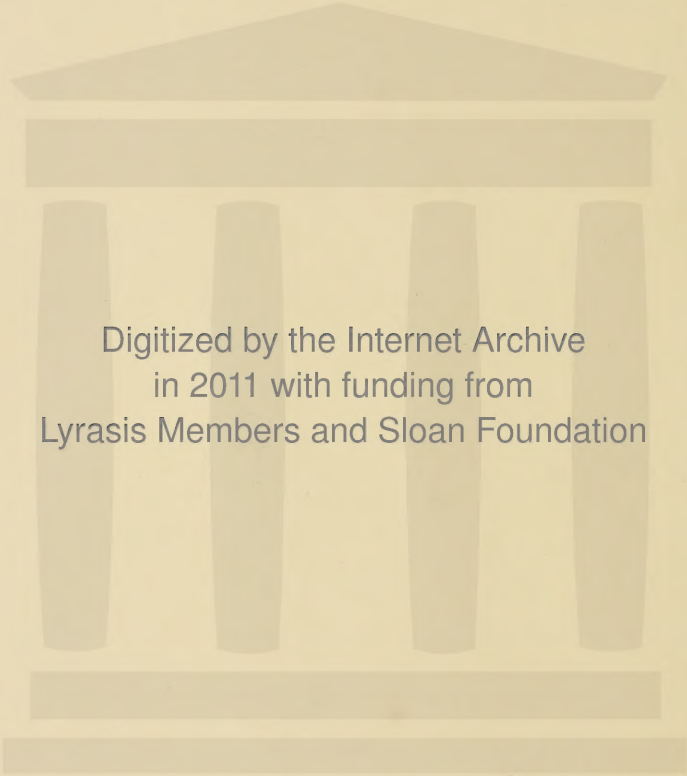
Secured by

M M Woodward and

J D Ray.

1833 to 1873.

Elytons - no constitution
in 1833 & dissolved in
1846.


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

https://archive.org/details/minutesoffifteen00cana

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

RUHAMAH MEETING-HOUSE,

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.,

FROM 30TH SEPT. TO 2D OCT.,

1848.

TUSCALOOSA:
PRINTED BY M. D. J. SLADE.
1848.

MINUTES.

Saturday, Sept. 30, 1848.

1. The Ministers and Delegates to the Fifteenth Annual Session of the Canaan Baptist Association met at Ruhamah meeting house, Jefferson co. and repaired to the stand, where the Introductory sermon was preached before a large audience, by Elder H. G. Smith, from Isa. xxv ch. 16 v.—"Behold I lay in Zion," &c.

2. After which, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house; prayer by Eldor J. Byars.

3. The letters from the churches were called for, read, and the names of their delegates enrolled.

4. Elder J. Moor was chosen Moderator; A. J. Waldrop, Recording, and J. H. Baker, Corresponding Secretary.

5. Ministers from sister Associations were invited to seats.

6. Read rules of Decorum.

7. An opportunity was afforded for the admission of newly constituted churches, when Prude's Creek church, Tuscaloosa county, came forward by letter and delegates, and being found orthodox, was cordially received, by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship. Attached to 3d District.

8. *Correspondence received.* A letter from Tuscaloosa Association, by the hands of Burns and Clement; a letter from the Coosa River, by the hands of Colly and Truss. The letters were read, and a cordial welcome given the messengers, by the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator.

9. *Correspondence returned, with letter and Minutes*—To the Tuscaloosa Association, Byars, Smith and Waldrop; W. J. Rockett to write. To the Coosa Rives Association, McDonald, Moor and Harris; J. H. Baker to write.

10. Committees were appointed, viz:

To arrange business. Byars, Deavours, and Burgin, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Finance. A. G. Waldrop and J. Truss.

On examination of Associational Book, (which the clerk was requested to finish, and he reports it done, J. Truss, M. McMath, and J. Timmons.

11. Elected Elders Colly, Truss and Burns to occupy the stand on tomorrow, in connection with Waldrop, who, by appointment, is to preach the missionary sermon.

12. Appointed A. G. Waldrop, Z. Hagood, J. Chenault, E. Wood, Isaac Allred, and C. Deavours, to pass through the congregation immediately after the missionary sermon, and receive contributions. Ordered that the same be applied to Indian Missions.

13. Appointed A. J. Waldrop, J. Moor, C. Deavors, J. J. Byars, W. J. Rockett, J. A. Burgin, J. H. Baker, E. Wood, R. Wood, and J. Byars, messengers to the Baptist State Convention. A. G. Waldrop to write.

After singing and prayer by bro. Smith, adjourned till 9 o'clock Monday morning.

The Sabbath was occupied at the stand by Elder Truss at 10 o'clock, after which A. J. Waldrop delivered a missionary sermon, from Ps. 126, 3 v. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Af-

ter which a collection of about $35 was taken up. Adjourned for dinner. (Brethren tented on the ground.) After which E. W. Colly preached, and the weather being unfavorable, and somewhat late, bro. Burns did not preach. We trust that the labors were not in vain, but that in due time they will yield a glorious crop.

---

14. *Monday morning.* Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the moderator.

15. Committee on arrangement, reported, and were discharged.

16. The roll was read.

17. Committees made their reports:

On Finance, reported, which was received, and the committee discharged. (See Statistical Table.)

On the Associational Book, reported through bro. J. Truss, that they have examined the book, and find it well done. Report received and committee discharged. Ordered, that the treasurer pay the clerk $10 for said work, out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated.

On Domestic Mission, appointed at last session, reported through their secretary, bro. Baker. (See Appendix A,) And for the report of Smith and Waldrop, (see Appendix B.) All of which was received and adopted; and to carry out the resolution as recommended by the committee, the Moderator appointed J. H. Waldrop, S. T. Huey, R. Stone, N. Skelton, J. H. Baker, J. A. Burgin, Isaac Allred, C. Brown, J. Chenault, J. J. Wilder, J. Truss, M. Pool, Wm Wyatt, E. King, E. Wood, W. J. Rockett, and E. Parsons.

19. *Report of District Meetings.* The 1st failed, by some means, to meet at their last meeting; consequently no report; but it was agreed by the members present at the Association, that the next session be at Bethel Church, Shelby co. commencing Friday before 2d Sabbath in July next. *Second*, will be held with the Ruhamah Church, Jefferson county, to commence Friday before the 2d Sabbath in September. *Third*, will be held with the Union Church, to commence Friday before the 1st Sabbath in July. Elder H. G. Smith will preach the introduotory sermon, O. Franklin, alternate; and A. J. Waldrop to prepare an essay to be read at that meeting.

20. The next Association will be held with Hebron Church, Jefferson county, on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1849. Elder A. J. Waldrop will preach the introductory sermon; Elder J. Moor, alternate. Elder J. Byars will preach the Missionary sermon, Elder H. G. Smith alternate; and bro. J. H. Baker will write the Circular, from a subject of his own choice.

21. Ordered, that bro. Wm Acton's name appear on these minutes as a licentiate, inasmuch as he has been licensed during this year.

22. E. Wood continued treasurer.

23. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the ministers and deacons of this Association, "A Minister's and Deacon's meeting," to he held every month when a 5th Sabbath occurs; and that the first be held with Union Church, Jefferson county, commencing Friday before the fifth Sabbath iu April next, when and where such matters may be discussed and examined, as may be useful to promote sound divinity, and advance the cause of religion.

24. Ordered, that the clerk superintend the printing of these minutes, that 500 copies be printed, and that he reserve a sufficient quantity for correspondence; and that he be allowed ten dollars for his services.

25. *Distributing Agents*—For the 1st District, J. J. Byars, 2d, O. W. Wood, 3d, A. J. Waldrop.

36. Whereas, bro. R. Wood who was appointed at our last Association to prepare a circular letter for the present year, has failed to attend, from some cause; therefore there is no circular to these minutes.

27. The Association having finished all the business before it, the Moderator addressed the brethren in an appropriate valedictory. Prayer was made. The old Hymn "Parting Hand," was sung; the brotherly farewell taken, and the Association adjourned.

J. MOOR, Moderator.

A. J. WALDROP, Clerk.

CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—DELEGATES—STATISTICS.

	CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	Ordained ministers in SMALL CAPS Licentiates in *italics*. DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by let.	Restored.	Dismissed	Excluded	Total.	Contribut'n for minutes	Contrib. for Association
1st Dis.	Union,	Shelby,	Wm Wyatt,	.	.	.	4	.	44	1 00	50
1st Dis.	Shoal Creek,	do	W C Harris, H Holsomback,	33	7	.	4	3	86	1 00	.....
1st Dis.	Bethel,	do	*Wm Acton*, J J Wilder,	1	.	.	12	1	26	1 00	1 00
2d District.	Hebron,	Jefferson,	A McDONALD, J MOOR, H B Moor,	5	3	2	.	1	65	2 60	2 00
2d District.	Mt. Zion,	St, Clair,	R Blythe, J Thomason,	klin 2	2	.	3	3	73	2 00	2 00
2d District.	Cahaba,	Jefferson,	J BYARS, *T Franklin*, J Truss, J Fran-	11	6	.	7	5	112	3 00	2 00
2d District.	Ruhamah,	do	J TIMMONS, E Wood, O Wood, D Ellington	17	7	5	5	1	113	4 00	2 66
2d District.	Salem,	do	JACOB TATE, C Deavours, R H Erwin	4	2	.	2	1	54	2 00	.....
2d District.	Bethel,	St. Clair,	J Chenault, J Oliver, H Moor,	3	1	.	1	1	44	1 50	30
3d District.	Canaan,	Jefferson,	J H Baker, T L Miles	5	1	.	5	.	38	50	.....
3d District.	Rock Creek,	do	A G Waldrop, S T Huey, R Waldrop	6	.	.	2	.	74	2 00	.....
3d District.	Union,	do	E B Rockett, J B Draper, W J Rocket	3	1	.	2	.	34	1 00	.....
3d District.	Liberty,	do	A J WALDROP, *N Skelton*, T F Waldrop	7	.	1	2	1	46	2 00	.....
3d District.	Mud Creek,	do	R Stone, C Howton,	5	.	.	3	1	38	1 25	.....
3d District.	Big Creek,	do	H G SMITH, O FRANKLIN, J H Waldrop	10	9	.	16	.	51	2 00	2 00
3d District.	Roop's Valley,	Tusca'sa	M M'Math, J A Burgin, A S Hulm	13	3	2	25	1	78	3 00	.....
3d District.	Prude's Creek,	do	S Dollar, E Parsons, W Burchfield,	8	6	.	.	.	26	1 00	30
				134	49	10	93	19	1003	30 84	12 70

NOTE. *Deceased*—At Union, 1; at Shoal Creek, 1; at Bethel, St. Clair, 2; at Rock Creek 2; and at Union, Jefferson, 1—Total 7

Churches.	PASTORS.	DEACONS.	CLERKS.	*Post Office.*	M. M.
Union	R Wood	H J Hill, Wm Wyatt,	Jordan Jones.	Woodsboro,	1
Shoal creek	N Haggard	E King, John Lol'y,	E King	Montevallo	2
Bethel	T P Holcomb	W J Peters, J Wilder	L M Wood	Woodsboro,	2
Hebron	A McDonald	H B Moor, J McLaughlin,	H B Moor	Cedar grove	.
Mt. Zion	J Tate	R Blythe, R Woodall, Isaac Looney,	A M M'Lendon	Springville	.
Bethel	J Moor	J Chenault, J Oliver	J Chenault	Branchville	.
Cahaba	J Byars	E G Cook, A Reavis, J H Franklin,	John Truss	Truss's	.
Ruhamah	J Byars	O W Wood, J K Byars, J Timmons &	E Wood	Rockville	.
Salem	J Tate	C Deavours, J B Rogers. (H Turner	R H Erwin	Mt. Pinson	2
Canaan		James Peterson,	J H Baker	Jonesboro'.	4
Rock Creek	A J Waldrop	A G Waldrop,	A G Waldrop	do	3
Union	A J Waldrop	Richard Rockett	W J Rockett.	do	1
Liberty	A J Waldrop	J Carrington,	T F Waldrop	do	2
Mud Creek	H G Smith	Isham Hammon,	R Stone	do	4
Big Creek.	H G Smith	J H Waldrop, O Franklin,	J H Waldrop	do	1
Rupe's Val.	J Byars	M McMath,	J A Burgin	McMath's.	2
Prude's cr'k	O Franklin		Sam'l Dollar.	Tuscaloosa	

APPENDIX.

To the Canaan Association :—

We, your Executive committee, appointed at the last Association, Report—That we met on Friday before 5th Sabbath in January, at Union Church, Jefferson county—fourteen churches being represented. Pledges were received for $167; and $27 75 were reported in the treasury from last year. We divided the Association into two fields of labor; and appointed J. Byars and J. Tate to the Eastern division, and H. G. Smith and A. J. Waldrop to the Western; with instructions to them to commence their labors in July, and hold protracted meetings in their respective fields of labor, without specific instructions as to their particular places of labor; leaving it to their own judgment, and instructing them to report to this committee at this Association; all of which they have done, and they are now discharged from further duty.

[A.]

Bro. Byars' and Tate's Report.

Bro. Byars and Tate report, that they entered on their labors, Friday before the 3d Sabbath in July at Ruhamah church, and continued their labors, including every Sabbath up to the Association, generally commencing their meetings on Friday before. They not having much missionary ground or destitution in their field of labor, held protracted meetings at several churches, had large and attentive congregations, and the preaching of the Word had considerable effect; and numbers of mourners came forward, requesting the prayers of the Christians; and though there were but few conversions; yet we have every right to believe their labors were not in vain. One meeting in a destitute neighborhood, was very interesting. A great number of mourners came forward desiring an interest in the prayers of God's people; and five professed religion: but, generally, in the destitute regions, congregations were small; no doubt consequent from the opposition of our anti-brethren, and principles of infidelity; yet there were some interesting meetings. They rode about four hundred miles each: Byars forty-five days, and Tate forty-two. In the course of their meetings, ninety-two sermons were preached; many exhortations were given, and other religious exercises. Six professed religion, and six were baptized.

[B.]

Bro. Waldrop's and Smith's Report.

We commenced our labors on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in July. On that day we met on Horse creek, Walker county, where we continued six days and nights; and notwithstanding the incessant rains that were falling, we had quite good congregations all the time. In this wilderness country, where there never has been much preaching, the people gave heed to the Word, and the Lord made bare his arm in the salvation of sinners. We left nearly all that were not professors, anxiously enquiring the way. There is no church in this settlement, and the people were anxious that we should constitute one, but we did not think it expedient. Since we left there, we learn that they have built a house for worship.

They were sorry when we had to leave them, and desired us to continue to preach in this settlement, and we do think, if proper means were used, the day is not distant, when a church may be constituted there. On next Friday we commenced a protracted meeting in Jefferson county, in Cannon's settlement, where we had larger congregations, and better weather, but not so many professed religion as at our former meeting; but it was a good time; many cried for mercy, and some professed a pardon of their sins. We were assisted at both these meetings by a Methodist brother, Gillmore, whom we found to be "a true yoke fellow." We dismissed after preaching five days and nights, to go to our next meeting. On our way, we had a night meeting at a house, where a sick sister lives. Here we had several mourners. On the next Friday we commenced a meeting in Walker county, where we had but poor encouragement; some persons presented themselves for prayer. We hope this was seed-sowing time. We continued four days. In this settlement are three distilleries, and at the time we were there, they were making brandy, and of course drinking it. A Division of the Sons of Temperance, would, no doubt, be a great benefit to that settlement, and promote the cause of religion. On the next Friday, we commenced a meeting on Prude's creek, where we were assisted by bro. O. Franklin; bro. Arnold attended two days, and a young brother Cain was with us two or three days. Here we constituted a church with twelve members; three more joined by letter before we left, and on the last day of our meeting, we had the pleasure of baptizing eight willing converts. At this meeting we were most signally blessed. We do not remember to have ever attended a more interesting meeting. "Here we saw the grace of God and were glad." In this wilderness country, where but a few years ago, was to be heard nothing but the beast of prey are now heard the songs of Zion. We were compelled to dismiss on Wednesday, to attend our next meeting at Mineral Springs, in Bibb county; here, bro. Arnold, Haggard and Burns assisted us, and we had a good meeting. Roop's Valley church opened her door to receive members, and we received and baptized 4. We closed on Wednesday. Our next meeting was to have been on Shade's creek, but the Presbyterian camp-meeting coming on at the same time near that place, we did not hold the meeting. Brother Smith went home and attended his own church, where he was assisted by bro. Clements, and they ordained bro. O. Franklin to the ministry, and two deacons; baptized three persons. This meeting continued four days. Bro. Waldrop rejoined bro. Burns, Arnold and Haggard, in holding a protracted meeting at Hephzeba church, Tuscaloosa county. This was a most glorious meeting. On Wednesday, bro. Burns, the pastor, baptized 10, and then bro. Waldrop left to rejoin bro. Smith. On the next Friday we commenced a meeting on Five mile, Jefferson county. There are but few professors in this settlement; but little preaching; no church; no meeting-house: but the people being desirous for the meeting, turned out and built a fine bush arbor, which answered well, being good weather. We had good congregations, and distributed about 1000 pages tracts, which were received with great delight. We continued four days. One woman, a missionary baptist, says she has not heard but two baptist sermons in about thirteen years, and they were anti-missionary. Next we went further north, but when we arrived at the house where we

expected to preach, we found the family in bad health. We had no meeting. The Mount Zion Association being in session near that place, we went there, hoping that it might do good, as they are, as a body, much opposed to missions. They did not ask us to preach, however. Where we stayed at night we preached. There is much opposition here to our course as an Association; but we think it is for the want of information. We think "the leaders of this people cause them to err." We next assisted in a meeting at Elyton two days and three nights. Several Methodist and Presbyterian ministers in attendance. Here we closed our labors.—Each rode 50 days, travelled 500 miles, preached 72 sermons, baptized 15 persons, constituted one church, ordained one minister, and two deacons, and distributed about 1800 pages tracts.

Your committee, after a careful examination of the reports of our Domestic Missionaries, think that much has been done to rejoice the hearts of christians, advance the cause of missions, and promote pure evangelical principles in destitute settlements; and your committee think that most vigorous exertions should be made by this Association to extend its labors, and promote the missionary spirit in the destitute parts of this Association, and faithfully and fully carry out the 9th article of our Constitution. And in order to succeed more fully, and carry out the great and sacred principles of our Constitution, in accordance with our Savior's last and most solemn injunction, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," as practised by the primitive churches—we would offer and recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That one member from each church in this Association be appointed to constitute the Executive Board of the Canaan Association, and that said Board be employed in raising funds, or obtaining pledges, until Friday before the first Sabbath in May next, at which time they shall meet at Union Church, Jefferson county, and employ two Domestic Missionaries, so long as funds may justify, to labor in destitute settlements within the bounds of this Association, and North and West of it, not spending their time at churches, and report to the next Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted. And your committee would beg leave to be discharged from further duty.

J. MOOR, *Chairman.*

J. H. BAKER, *Secretary.*

Received of A. J. Waldrop, Clerk, Seventeen Dollars, for printing 500 copies of these Minutes.

M. D. J. SLADE.

October 28, 1848.